

Mrs. Jones is a true lady, full of grace, honor, and respect. She has lived a life of honor and service. Along with her family, friends, and community, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Jones a happy 77th birthday and commending her on her multiple accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER BILL
CLEVELAND

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Bill Cleveland of the United States Capitol Police. During my service in Congress, Officer Cleveland has made a lasting, impression on me as a motivated public servant.

Often referred to as "Officer Fantastic," Bill greets Members, staff and visitors at his Cannon House Office Building post each morning with a smile and pleasant greeting. Every time an individual responds and asks how he is doing, Officer Cleveland replies, "Fantastic!" Although he works high intensity, twelve-hour days securing the building's entrances and consistently directing visitors around the maze of hallways, Bill always remains upbeat and friendly.

The more remarkable traits of Officer Cleveland's public duties reach beyond the halls of Congress. In 1988 Bill Cleveland became the first black Republican since Reconstruction to be elected to the City Council in Alexandria, Virginia. Furthermore, he currently serves as the Vice Mayor of Alexandria and is running for mayor in May 2003. If elected, Bill would be the first black mayor of Alexandria.

When I first met Officer Cleveland, I witnessed his motivating spirit and humble service. After countless encounters I have learned Bill's actions are inspired by his deep Christian faith. At work he not only serves the people, but he does so because of his fervor for the Lord. Officer Cleveland's leadership, enthusiasm, and sense of duty have been extraordinary examples for my staff and me. Each day be is a welcoming reminder of how truly great it is to serve in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Bill Cleveland is a great American and I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking him for such outstanding service.

TRIBUTE TO THANKSGIVING

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the national holiday of Thanksgiving to be held this year on the 28th of November.

This traditional holiday, bringing together families and celebrating what we are blessed with as individuals and as a country, takes on an ever more important meaning now as Americans confront terrorism. For the nation to give thanks to God is a hallowed custom, one which is truly American.

Initially celebrated by our forefathers, this holiday became a tradition of thanks for a bountiful harvest, which provided colonists with enough food to last through the winter. The observation was also a time to pray and give thanks for peace with their Native American neighbors. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln officially appointed a national day of Thanksgiving. Since then, each president has issued a Thanksgiving Day proclamation, designating the fourth Thursday of each November as the official holiday.

As we take the time out of our busy lives to stop and give thanks for the food on our table, our loved ones, the homes we live in and our magnificent nation, let us also remember our forefathers and the sacrifices they made to build our great country and the freedoms by which we may celebrate and express our thanks.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
BILL OWENS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express gratitude and congratulations to the Honorable Bill Owens, Governor of Colorado. Four years ago, Gov. Owens promised to improve education for Colorado's children, reduce the tax burden on families, and make transportation a top priority. Gov. Owens has not only kept his promises to Colorado, but has managed to accomplish much more in his tenure as Governor.

On education, Governor Owens has made schools more accountable for the academic achievements of children. He has expanded assessment testing to better measure the success of children and has pushed for accountability reports that detail the safety and academic performance of Colorado schools. For the first time in a decade, the state is fully funding public education. Gov. Owens has also managed to create smaller class sizes for children in kindergarten through third grade and many full-day kindergarten programs. Other impacts of the education reform include a Read to Achieve grant to provide new programs and new textbooks for many Colorado classrooms.

Governor Owens has also made history by pushing the state's largest tax-relief package. That effort has amounted to \$1 billion in rate cuts of personal income, sales, and capital gains taxes. He also has eliminated the marriage penalty tax. More over, Owens has managed to keep the budget balanced by making responsible decisions to veto \$47 million in line items. He then called on state agencies to cut an additional 4 percent from their budgets.

As governor, Owens has paid special attention to Colorado's long-neglected transportation system. Under Owens' leadership, the state will invest more than \$15 billion in Colorado's highway system in the next 20 years. Although this plan funds projects through the state, Owens constructed it without raising taxes. Colorado will now have better, cleaner, and safer roads for years to come.

Governor Owens has managed to accomplish all this under the pressure of other challenges facing the state and nation demanding

his action. These calls to action include school violence, drought, wildfires, economic slowdown, terrorism, and much more.

Owens' leadership skills are unmatched, and his ability to work in a bipartisan manner earns him daily praise. More importantly, Gov. Owens is firmly committed to making Colorado a better place to live for present and future generations of Coloradans. I ask the House to extend its congratulations and sincere thanks to Governor Bill Owens for his success and accomplishment as Colorado's Governor.

CHANGING LIVES CHARACTER
EDUCATION PROGRAM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Changing Lives character education program, an exceptional curriculum being used throughout the country with proven results to improve individual lives and schools.

The development of character among our young people today is critical to the stability and success of our nation and society. John Adams, the second President of the United States, recognized the immense importance of character and morality to our nation. "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people," he said in an address to the military. "It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, there is a real vacuum of values in our culture today. Too many of our youth are growing up without the guidance and modeling of basic, time-honored character traits, which at one time were reinforced by one's family, church, school and community.

Two well-respected teachers and coaches have joined together to respond to this need for character development among elementary and secondary students. Dennis Parker and D.W. Rutledge, in conjunction with Zig Ziglar, have created a character curriculum called "Changing Lives." The curriculum involves several innovative components, including "Word of the Week" character concepts, a mission statement for the school, banners and posters in the halls about character education, books and readings, journal writing, and focused activities facilitating student, parent, teachers and community involvement in the character education process.

While there are many character education programs on the market, the Changing Lives curriculum is the only one I know which has received extensive study and evaluation. Two psychologists at the University of Dayton recently conducted a scientifically based study of the Changing Lives program. They found that schools with the Changing Lives curriculum demonstrated positive behavior changes and results among the student body in comparison with schools that did not incorporate the curriculum into the classroom. Teachers reported less frequent negative student behaviors and fewer disciplinary actions. Students reported fewer unruly behaviors and a greater expectation from teachers for them to behave in positive ways. Parents were also more likely to attend school activities and rated the schools more positively.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to discuss the merits and benefits of the Changing Lives character education program. I would urge all school districts to consider using this program as they apply for the Character Education grants distributed by the Department of Education. It is a proven program with results that attest to its effectiveness in changing student behaviors and transforming school environments.

RECOGNIZING JOHN MICHAEL ROSE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true friend of Colorado's Arkansas Valley. John Rose is a good neighbor, and he typifies the Western values I hold dear.

John Michael Rose and his wife, Jolly, moved to the Lower Arkansas Valley in February of 1995. They settled near the town of Fowler, Colorado. John said, "We came down here to escape the metropolitan lifestyle, and to enjoy the peace and quiet associated with living a rural lifestyle." The Rose's have raised corn and alfalfa on their eighty-acre farm for two years. John switched the operation from farming to ranching in 1997 and went into a cow-calf operation. They enjoyed living on the land and learning about farming and ranching.

In October of 1998 John received a call from the local Soil Conservation District with an offer to fill a vacant chair on the Board of Directors. John said, "That was just the beginning of my reentry into public service." In December of 1999 the City of Aurora announced its intentions to purchase the remaining shares of the Rocky Ford Ditch. John encouraged the Soil Conservation Board to become proactive and get involved with the process of objecting to the sale and monitoring what would happen to the land when Aurora took the water and dried up the land. The board held a water forum and John served as the moderator. John says this thrust him into the spotlight and thus began his involvement in water issues in the Lower Arkansas Valley. The Otero County Commissioners created the Water Works Committee and asked John to be the coordinator. This led to the creation of the Arkansas Valley Preservation Land Trust; the revival of Arkansas Valley Conduit project, and the Arkansas Valley Water Preservation Group. John is a frequent speaker throughout the valley to community groups, service clubs, and to other governmental agencies.

John serves on the Board of Directors of Big Brothers-Big Sisters. He is active in the Masonic Lodge and continues to serve on West Otero Timpas Conservation District. He is a valuable member of his community, and I am proud to have represented such a vigorous conservator in the Congress. John is a man of integrity who does the right thing even when it isn't the easiest thing to do.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FREDERIC PAUL GRESKY

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to express gratitude and congratulations to Mr. Frederic Paul Gresky, Colorado, one of Colorado's most outstanding citizens. Paul, a Colorado resident for over 30 years, is an individual who has made a positive and lasting difference in the lives of others.

In 1971, he and his wife Carol moved to Colorado and have raised two wonderful children, Ellen and Michael. His call to civic duty began in 1974 when a neighbor of Mr. Gresky's left a loaded shotgun unattended and the neighbor's son injured another boy. The injured boy happened to be the son of Paul's co-worker. We all have pivotal events that affect our lives, Mr. Speaker, and this was definitely Paul Gresky's. Instead of reacting irrationally, Paul set out to make a difference.

Since 1974, Paul Gresky has served as a volunteer hunter education instructor, teaching the values of safe firearm handling and responsible human-to-wildlife interaction. Mr. Gresky has earned the title of Division of Wildlife Master Instructor in 1983 and instructed an astonishing 11,000 students. In 1985, he was named Colorado Instructor of the Year and in both 1987 and 1989 he was the Colorado Candidate for Winchester's Instructor of the Year. Paul is a Certified Instructor for the Boy Scouts of America and has been called on by the Poudre Valley School District to teach Home Safety for Firearms.

Paul Gresky's commitment to wildlife has been equally impressive. When the Kodak Company wanted to develop a watchable wildlife site, they called on Mr. Gresky. His expertise resulted in one of only two watchable sites in Colorado, the only location where observers can walk through 41 acres and view natural wildlife habits.

The values that Paul Gresky holds should never be ignored. If you have the privilege of attending one of his classes, you will hear him quote Victor Hugo saying, "Common sense is developed without regard to education, not as a result of it." The young children in his courses go home with a life-changing regard to firearms, our country's heritage, and the value of wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Gresky's service and dedication to teaching and serving his country remind us of all that is good in America. Paul is truly a shining example for all Americans.

As a constituent of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, Paul Gresky not only makes his community proud, but also his state and country. It is a true honor to have such an extraordinary citizen in Colorado and we owe him a debt of gratitude for his service and dedication to the community. I ask the House to join me in extending wholehearted congratulations to Mr. Frederic Paul Gresky.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALAN FOUTZ

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to express gratitude and congratulations to one of Colorado's outstanding citizens, Mr. Alan Foutz of Akron, Colorado. Mr. Foutz, a graduate of the Colorado State University's department of Soil and Crop Sciences, was recently honored for his leadership and contributions to agriculture.

Mr. Foutz received his bachelor's and master's degrees in agronomy from Colorado State in 1968 and 1970. Since owning Foutz Farms in Akron, Alan has been an advocate for relationships between Colorado State and rural communities. Always working for the future of agriculture, Mr. Foutz has pushed for more student scholarships and awards for faculty members deserving recognition. His influence in the agricultural industry has spanned many groups, including serving as president of the Colorado Farm Bureau and Colorado Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance. Additionally, Mr. Foutz has served on the board of directors for Western Farm Bureau Insurance, the American Farm Bureau Federation Wheat Advisory Committee and the National Sunflower Board. Mr. Foutz also serves on the Colorado State College of Agricultural Sciences advisory board and has been a university commencement speaker.

While his service with formal organizations has been impressive, Alan's own peers recognize his valuable contributions. Mr. Jim Quick, the Soil and Crop Sciences Department Head recently commented that Alan has made "many valuable contributions to science and to the crop industry."

As a constituent of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, Alan Foutz not only makes his community proud, but also his state and country. It is a true honor to have such an extraordinary citizen in Colorado and we owe him a debt of gratitude for his service and dedication to the community. I ask the House to join me in extending wholehearted congratulations to Mr. Alan Foutz.

APPRECIATION FOR EDUCATION REFORM GROUPS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 28, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the valuable contribution and tireless assistance of more than 30 organizations committed to helping all children achieve academic excellence through educational choice. Over the past year, these groups have demonstrated a remarkable dedication—often under difficult circumstances—to advancing education tax credit legislation.

During my time in Congress, no issue has captivated my time and attention more than education reform through school choice. Several years ago, a handful of my colleagues and I began meeting to work on a serious parental choice legislative effort. The result of our work was several education tax-related